

Serial No. 10/065,891
Filed: 11/27/02
Page 5 of 24

Examiner: Theresa T. Snider
Group Art Unit: 1744

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below in the complete listing of claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A portable extraction cleaner comprising:
a housing assembly including a housing enclosure centrally mounted on a housing base and a handle formed on the housing enclosure and adapted for user carrying of the extraction cleaner;
a suction motor and impeller assembly mounted within the housing enclosure;
a solution tank for cleaning solution removably mounted to the housing base at one side of the housing enclosure;
a recovery tank removably mounted to the housing base at another side of the housing enclosure and having an air/liquid separator.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner in accordance with claim 1 wherein the solution tank and the recovery tank are mounted to opposite sides of the housing enclosure.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A portable extraction cleaner in accordance with claim 1 wherein the solution tank and the recovery tank are mounted to forward and rearward ends of the main housing assembly and the handle is oriented in a forward to rear direction.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner in accordance with claim ~~3~~1 wherein the solution tank and the recovery tank are configured so that the ~~clean~~-solution tank and the recovery tank are drop generally configured for vertical movement into and out of the housing base.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A portable extraction cleaner according to claim 4 and further comprising a flexible suction hose mounted to the housing assembly and connected to the recovery tank for recovery of cleaning fluid deposited on a surface to be cleaned and a cleaning tool with a suction nozzle mounted to a free end of the suction hose for recovering soiled cleaning fluid from a surface on which cleaning fluid has been deposited.

Serial No. 10/065,891
Filed: 11/27/02
Page 6 of 24

Examiner: Theresa T. Snider
Group Art Unit: 1744

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A portable extraction cleaner according to claim 5 wherein the impeller assembly has an inlet opening in communication with the suction hose for drawing soiled cleaning fluid recovered from the surface to be cleaned through the hose and depositing the same in the recovery tank.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 6 wherein the recovery tank is fluidly connected between the hose and the impeller assembly.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 6 and further comprising a working air conduit through the housing base between the impeller inlet opening and the recovery tank.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 8 and further comprising a seal between an end of the working air conduit and the recovery tank.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 9 and further comprising clean air exhaust vents on a side of the housing base connected to an impeller outlet opening for exhausting air from the housing enclosure.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 10 wherein the suction motor and impeller assembly are sealed in the housing enclosure with the exception of the impeller inlet opening and exhaust outlet opening.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A portable extraction cleaner according to claim 5 and further comprising indentations in an outer surface of the housing base for receiving and positioning the flexible suction hose when the hose is wrapped around the housing base for storage when the extraction cleaner is not in use or is being carried.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 12 and further comprising a clip on the housing assembly for releasably retaining the free end of the flexible hose when the hose is wrapped around the housing base.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the handle is integrally molded ~~handle~~ with the housing enclosure and at an upper portion thereof.

Serial No. 10/065,891
Filed: 11/27/02
Page 7 of 24

Examiner: Theresa T. Snider
Group Art Unit: 1744

15. (Currently Amended) TheA portable extraction cleaner in accordance with claim 1 wherein the solution tank and the recovery tank are configured so that the ~~clean~~-solution tank and the recovery tank are configured for drop-generally-vertically movement into and out of the housing base.

16. (Currently Amended) TheA portable extraction cleaner according to claim 1 and further comprising a flexible suction hose mounted to the housing assembly and connected to the recovery tank for recovery of cleaning fluid deposited on a surface to be cleaned and a cleaning tool with a suction nozzle is mounted to a free end of the suction hose for recovering soiled cleaning fluid from a surface on which cleaning fluid has been deposited.

17. (Currently Amended) A-The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 16 and further comprising indentations in an outer surface of the housing base for receiving and positioning the flexible suction hose when the hose is wrapped around the housing base for storage when the extraction cleaner is not in use or is being carried.

18. (Currently Amended) AThe portable extraction cleaner according to claim 17 and further comprising a clip on the housing assembly for releasably retaining the free end of the flexible hose when the hose is wrapped around the housing base.

19. (Currently Amended) AThe portable extraction cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the suction motor and impeller assembly are sealed in the housing enclosure with the exception of the impeller inlet and exhaust outlet.

20. (Currently Amended) TheA portable extraction cleaner according to claim 19 and further comprising exhaust vents connected to an impeller outlet in the housing base at a side thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) TheA portable extraction cleaner according to claim 1 and further comprising pair of cord wrap retainers mounted onto the housing enclosure.

22. (Currently Amended) TheA portable extraction cleaner according to claim 21 wherein the cord wrap retainers are mounted in vertical juxtaposition to each other.

Serial No. 10/065,891
Filed: 11/27/02
Page 8 of 24

Examiner: Theresa T. Snider
Group Art Unit: 1744

23. (Currently Amended) TheA portable extraction cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the at least one of the solution tank and the recovery tank have indented hand grips on side walls thereof for user grasping of the tanks for removal from and replacement on the housing base.

24. (Currently Amended) TheA portable extraction cleaner according to claim 23 wherein both of the solution and recovery tanks have indented hand grips on sidewalls thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) TheA portable extraction cleaner according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the clean solution and recovery tanks are made of transparent or translucent material for viewing fluid levels within the tanks.

26. (Currently Amended) TheA portable extraction cleaner according to claim 25 and further comprising a decorative face plate that is removably mounted to the housing enclosure and that is adapted to cover at least a substantial visible portion of the visible surface of the housing enclosure.

27. (Currently Amended) AThe portable extraction cleaner according to claim 25 and further comprising a plurality of different decorative face plates that are adapted to be removably mounted to the housing enclosure and each of which is adapted to cover at least a substantial visible portion of the visible surface of the housing enclosure when mounted on the housing enclosure.

28. (Currently Amended) AThe portable extraction cleaner according to claim 1 and further comprising a decorative face plate that is removably mounted to the housing enclosure and that is adapted to cover at least a substantial visible portion of the visible surface of the housing enclosure.

29. (Currently Amended) AThe portable extraction cleaner according to claim 1 and further comprising a plurality of different decorative face plates that are adapted to be removably mounted to the housing enclosure and each of which is adapted to cover at least a substantial visible portion of the visible surface of the housing enclosure when mounted on the housing enclosure.

Serial No. 10/065,891
Filed: 11/27/02
Page 9 of 24

Examiner: Theresa T. Snider
Group Art Unit: 1744

30. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the recovery tank has a pour spout at an upper portion adjacent to the housing enclosure.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 30 wherein a pour spout cover is pivotally mounted on the housing enclosure for movement from an overlying position to an open position with respect to the pour spout.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 31 wherein the pour spout cover has an over-center latch for positively sealing the pour spout in the overlying position and for retaining the pour spout cover free of the pour spout in the open position.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the ~~recovery tank has an air/liquid separator~~ is formed from a riser tube having an internal divider separating the riser tube into fluidly isolated first and second conduits, and each of the first and second conduits are fluidly connected to the interior of the recovery tank through an aperture at an upper end thereof.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 33 and further comprising a float assembly slidably mounted on the riser tube and having an aperture cover adapted to cover the aperture of the second conduit as fluid rises to a predetermined level within the recovery tank and a backflow ~~preventer~~ prevention valve positioned in the first conduit to prevent fluid from passing from the interior of the recovery tank out through the first conduit.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 35 and further comprising a flexible suction hose mounted to the housing assembly and connected to the recovery tank for recovery of cleaning fluid deposited on a surface to be cleaned and a cleaning tool with a suction nozzle is mounted to a free end of the suction hose for recovering soiled

Serial No. 10/065,891
Filed: 11/27/02
Page 10 of 24

Examiner: Theresa T. Snider
Group Art Unit: 1744

cleaning fluid from a surface on which cleaning fluid has been deposited; wherein the impeller assembly has an inlet opening in communication with the suction hose for drawing soiled cleaning fluid recovered from the surface to be cleaned through the hose and depositing the same in the recovery tank.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 36 wherein the recovery tank is fluidly connected between the hose and the impeller assembly.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 36 and further comprising a working air conduit through the housing base between the impeller inlet opening and the recovery tank.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 38 and further comprising a seal between an end of the working air conduit and the recovery tank.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 39 and further comprising clean air exhaust vents on a side of the housing base connected to an impeller outlet opening for exhausting air from the housing enclosure.

41. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 40 wherein the suction motor and impeller assembly are sealed in the housing enclosure with the exception of the impeller inlet and exhaust outlet.

42.-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently Amended) A portable extraction cleaner comprising:
a housing assembly including a housing enclosure mounted on a housing base and a handle adapted for user carrying of the extraction cleaner;

a ~~suction motor and impeller assembly~~suction source mounted within the housing enclosure;

a solution tank for cleaning solution and a recovery tank removably mounted to the housing base; and

a decorative face plate that is removably mounted to the housing enclosure and that is adapted to cover at least a substantial visible portion of the visible surface of the housing enclosure.

Serial No. 10/065,891
Filed: 11/27/02
Page 11 of 24

Examiner: Theresa T. Snider
Group Art Unit: 1744

59. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 58 wherein the decorative face plate is one of there are a plurality of different decorative face plates that are adapted to be removably mounted to the housing enclosure and each of which is adapted to cover at least a substantial visible portion of the visible surface of the housing enclosure when mounted on the housing enclosure.

60. (Currently Amended) A portable extraction cleaner comprising:
a housing assembly including a housing enclosure mounted on a housing base and a handle adapted for user carrying of the extraction cleaner;
~~a suction motor and impeller assembly~~suction source mounted within the housing enclosure;
a solution tank for cleaning solution and a recovery tank removably mounted to the housing base adjacent to the housing enclosure; and

wherein the recovery tank has a pour spout at an upper portion adjacent to the housing enclosure.

61. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 60 wherein a pour spout cover is pivotally mounted on the housing enclosure for movement from an overlying position to an open position.

62. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 61 wherein the pour spout cover has an over-center latch for positively sealing the pour spout in the overlying position and for retaining the pour spout cover free of the pour spout in the open position.

63. (Currently Amended) A portable extraction cleaner comprising:
a housing assembly including a housing enclosure mounted on a housing base and a handle adapted for user carrying of the extraction cleaner;
~~a suction motor and impeller assembly~~suction source mounted within the housing enclosure;
a solution tank for cleaning solution and a recovery tank removably mounted to the housing base; and

Serial No. 10/065,891
Filed: 11/27/02
Page 12 of 24

Examiner: Theresa T. Snider
Group Art Unit: 1744

wherein the recovery tank has an the air/liquid separator formed from a riser tube having an internal divider separating the riser tube into fluidly isolated first and second conduits, and each of the first and second conduits are fluidly connected to the interior of the recovery tank through an aperture at an upper end thereof.

64. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 63 and further comprising a float assembly slidably mounted on the riser tube and having an aperture cover adapted to cover the aperture of the second conduit as fluid rises within the recovery tank and a backflow prevention valve positioned in the first conduit to prevent fluid from passing from the interior of the recovery tank out through the first conduit.

65. (New) The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 1 and further comprising a working air conduit through the housing base between the impeller inlet opening and the recovery tank.

66. (New) A portable extraction cleaner comprising:
a housing assembly including a housing enclosure centrally mounted on an elongated housing base having a longitudinal axis and a handle formed on the housing enclosure in alignment with the longitudinal axis of the elongated base and adapted for user carrying of the extraction cleaner;

a suction source mounted within the housing enclosure;

a solution tank for cleaning solution removably mounted to the housing base at one axial side of the housing enclosure;

a recovery tank removably mounted to the housing base at another axial side of the housing enclosure and having an air-liquid separator.

67. (New) The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 66 wherein the suction source has an inlet opening between the housing enclosure and the base and further comprising a conduit through the base from the recovery tank to the inlet opening for drawing air from the recovery tank to the suction source.

Serial No. 10/065,891
Filed: 11/27/02
Page 13 of 24

Examiner: Theresa T. Snider
Group Art Unit: 1744

68. (New) The portable extraction cleaner according to claim 60 and further comprising indented hand grips formed in side walls of the recovery tank distal from the housing enclosure for gripping by a hand of a user for removal of the recovery tank from the base and for pouring liquid from the base through the pour spout.